



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Grand Canyon National Park
P.O. Box 129
Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023-0129

July 11, 2001

Dear Interested Party

Reference: Grand Canyon National Park, North Rim Concessions Projects

Subject: Comments on Proposed North Rim Concessions Projects (general scoping)

The National Park Service (NPS) is in the initial stages of planning for several projects on the North Rim. These projects are expected to start construction this fiscal year or the following fiscal year. All of these projects are needed to provide improved facilities and added housing, to repair problems with existing infrastructure, to better protect natural and cultural resources, to provide a safer, more enjoyable visitor experience, or to enable park staff to complete their jobs more safely and effectively. They all are either specifically identified in or are consistent with the 1995 Grand Canyon National Park *General Management Plan*.

Environmental assessments will be prepared to facilitate the decision-making process for these projects. The projects are summarized below (listed in no particular order), along with a brief justification for why the work is needed, and are displayed on the attached map of the North Rim developed area. The projects are all in the immediate vicinity of the concessionaire/maintenance housing area identified on the map.

- 1. Rehabilitation of the North Rim Recreational Vehicle Park.** This project would repair degraded RV parking facilities, improve and add infrastructure to support parking facilities, and provide additional spaces for RV parking for seasonal employees. Conditions in the RV Park have deteriorated over time. Work is necessary to protect the natural and cultural resources of the area, to improve the road through the RV Park and to increase the number of parking spaces provided within existing disturbed areas in and adjacent to the RV Park.
- 2. Construction of a Dormitory for Seasonal Concessions Employees on the North Rim.** This project would construct a dormitory building adequate to accommodate 44 rooms. There is a significant lack of housing for seasonal concessions employees on the North Rim. This severely restricts the number of employees that can be hired to provide for the safety and enjoyment of visitors on the North Rim. Work would be accomplished in a previously disturbed area in the vicinity of the Employee Dining Room (EDR).
- 3. Evaluation of Significance and Potential Replacement of Mill Shed on the North Rim.** The Mill Shed no longer provides a safe or effective work environment. The structure will be evaluated for its historic significance and depending on the results, plans will be made by an

interdisciplinary team including historical architects and cultural resources staff to restore, rehabilitate or replace the structure.

The purpose of this scoping letter is to describe the initial proposed actions for these projects and solicit comments from those who may have issues or concerns with the proposals. We would like your comments before we proceed further with the environmental analyses for these projects. If you have issues or concerns with any of the specific projects described above, please send your comments by August 17, 2001 to:

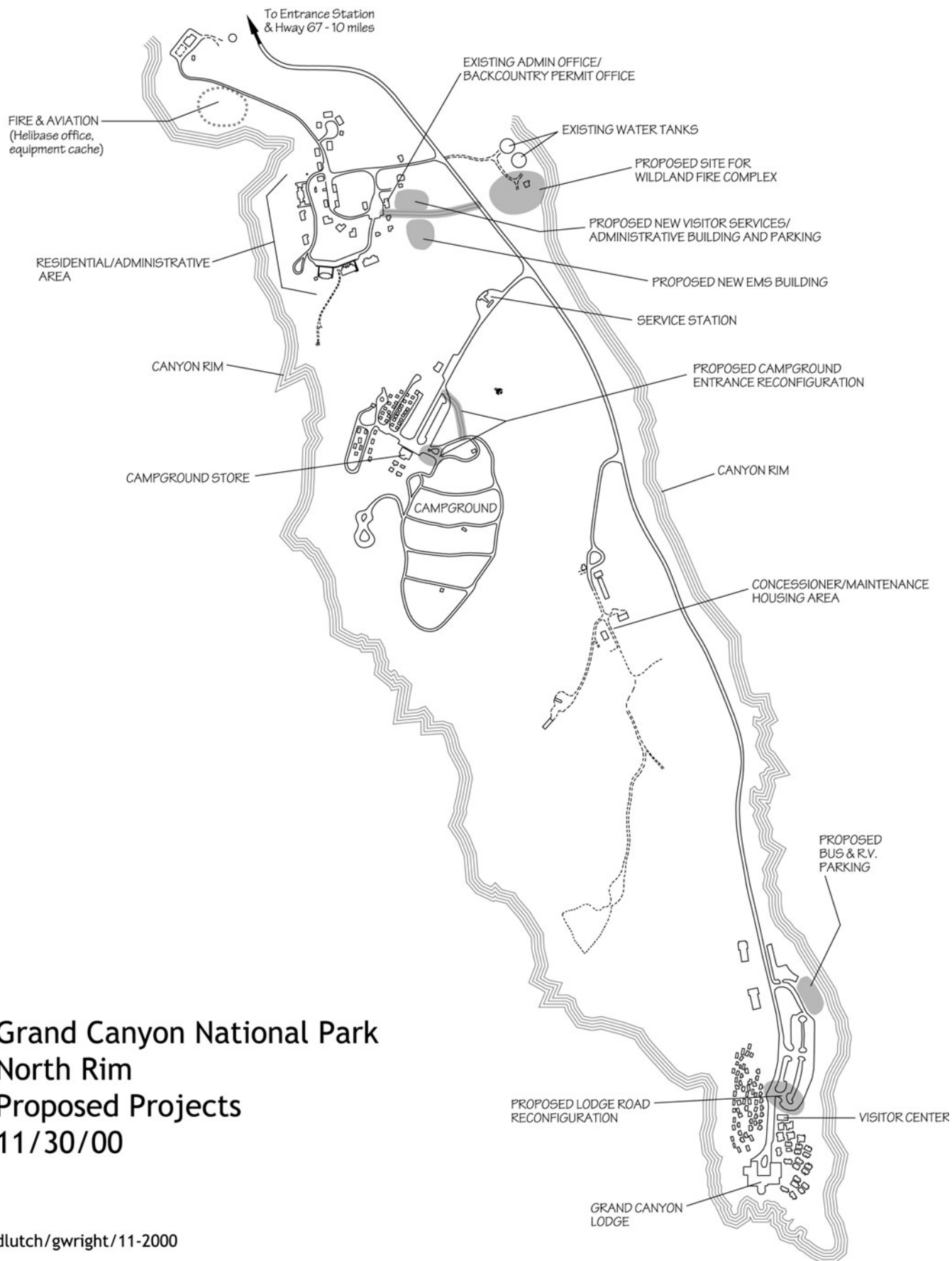
Joseph Alston, Superintendent
C/o Sara White, Chief Compliance Officer
Grand Canyon National Park
P.O. Box 129
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023

Please be aware that names and addresses of respondents may be released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety. Anonymous comments may be included in the public record. However, the National Park Service is not legally required to consider or respond to anonymous comments.

If you have any questions regarding the projects, please call Sara White at 520-638-7956.

Sincerely,

Joseph Alston
Superintendent



Grand Canyon National Park North Rim Proposed Projects 11/30/00